

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 16-21 and 36-40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chaudhari in combination with Misewich. Claims 8-10, 12-15, 22, 23 and 25-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wei in combination with Chaudhari, Song and Ogura.

Claims 1-7, 20 and 21 have been cancelled without prejudice to the filing of divisional and/or continuing applications. Independent claims 8, 36 and 40 have been amended to further clarify important differences relative to the prior art. The Office Action has relied upon the disclosure of Chaudhari and Misewich relating to the use of certain compounds of metals, namely, metal oxides. Specifically, claims 8, 36 and 40 have been amended to recite pure metals, a composite of pure metals, doped pure metals, an alloy consisting of two or more pure metals, layers of pure metals and certain metal compounds, namely, a metal silicide, a metal salicide or a metal nitride. Applicants believe that with these claim amendments, that they distinguish clearly from the cited references, as they do not disclose or suggest the recited channel materials.

The dependency of claims 16-19 has been amended to be dependent on claim 36. Claim 15 is now dependent on claim 40.

The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss any matter that would expedite allowance of the present application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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